

# Proverbs 15:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge:  
but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.

## Analysis

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The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness. The wise person's heart actively pursues wisdom. Lev navon yevaquesh da'at (לב נבון יבקש דעת, the heart of the discerning seeks knowledge). Baqash (בקש, seek, search for, request) shows active pursuit. By contrast, upney kesilim yir'eh ivvelet (ופני כסילים יראה אולת, but the face/mouth of fools feeds on folly). Fools consume foolishness like cattle grazing—passively, constantly, contentedly. The wise hunger for truth; fools are satisfied with error.

## Historical Context

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In ancient Israel, knowledge meant skill in living according to God's wisdom. Wise people sought instruction from elders, studied Torah, and learned from experience. Fools passively absorbed cultural foolishness. The contrast continues—believers should crave spiritual milk and solid food (1 Peter 2:2, Hebrews 5:12-14), not feeding on worldly folly.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. What are you actively seeking—knowledge of God and His ways, or are you passively feeding on foolishness?
2. What does 'seeking knowledge' look like practically in terms of Bible study, reading, and learning from wise mentors?
3. How can you starve your appetite for foolishness and cultivate hunger for biblical wisdom?

## Interlinear Text

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לֵב	נָבוֹן	יִבְקֹשׁ	דָּעַת	וּפִי נִי
The heart	of him that hath understanding	seeketh	knowledge	but the mouth
H3820	H995	H1245	H1847	H6310
כִּי סִיל יִם	יִרְעֶה	אֶלֶת:		
of fools	feedeth	on foolishness		
H3684	H7462	H200		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 9:9** (Parallel theme): Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

**Isaiah 30:10** (Parallel theme): Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:

**Proverbs 18:15** (Parallel theme): The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.

**Acts 17:11** (Parallel theme): These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

**2 Peter 3:18** (Parallel theme): But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

